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ABSTRACT

This teaching resource presents articles that draw on young people's natural interest in sports to stimulate their involvement in law-related education. An article on violence in sports explores the causes of this violence--the physical contact inherent in many sports, the desire to win at all costs, the urging of coaches, and the negligence of referees--as well as measures proposed to restrain players, including safety equipment, fines and suspensions, criminal charges, and civil penalties. In a lesson plan that follows, students are assigned the roles of either referees, league administrators, or criminal prosecutors and asked to propose solutions to several hypothetical violent episodes. In the coach's column, a regular feature, Andy Schwich describes the charitable activities of Dodger's pitcher Orel Hershiser and his nomination for the Roberto Clemente Award for outstanding achievement on and off the field. An article on the outreach activities of Los Angeles sports teams describes a midnight basketball league, educational support programs, and community youth support programs. In an interview, retired Los Angeles Raider's safety, Mike Davis, describes his activities as executive director of the NFL Youth Education Town, which encourages inner-city athletes to focus on their education. (JD)

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In This Issue

Violence in Sports *Coach's Column* *Reaching Out For the Long Run* *GOALS Lessons* *What Do You Think?* *Puzzle*

In This Issue

Violence—especially youth violence—is a serious problem in America. Violence plagues our cities and affects millions of lives each year. In this double issue of *Sports & the Law,* we explore some basic questions: What can be done about violence on the playing field? What can sports contribute to solving the underlying causes of youth violence? Can sports figures serve as positive role models for young people? "Violence and Sports" looks at violence on the playing field, and explores the causes of sports violence, and possible solutions for reducing it. "Reaching Out" describes efforts that some L.A. pro teams are making to curb youth violence. *Sports & the Law's* interview with former L.A. Raiders player Mike Davis reveals why this Super Bowl hero works so hard to give back to the community. In his "Coach's Column," Sports & the Law Project Director Andy Schwich reviews Orel Hershiser's response to fame and social responsibility.

Violence in Sports:
Why is Violence a Part of the Game?

Violence plays a part in professional and amateur sporting events every day in America. Players taunt, spear, take cheap shots, and swing fists. To win, coaches teach dirty tactics and encourage violence. Referees sometimes let excessive play go unpunished. Fans yell, fight, and throw objects at each other and the players. Television highlights the violence on the evening news and in newspapers.

Violence is a natural part of many sports, such as football and boxing. But, violence also occurs in sports like baseball, where batters sometimes rush the mound after being hit by a pitch. (UPI/Bettman.)

Violence in sports is nothing new. History provides many examples of games that were more violent than the games we play today. Boxers in ancient Greece wore no protective gear and fought their matches to the death. The Romans went even further and promoted bloodshed as a spectator sport. Thousands of gladiators fought to the death in Roman arenas. The ancient Mayans and Aztecs played a ball game in which the losing team's captain was beheaded. The native North Americans played *baggataway,* a predecessor to the modern game of lacrosse, which often left broken bones, bloodied bodies, and death in its wake.

Even though sports violence has existed since early recorded history, people are beginning to examine the problem more closely. To understand the problem and come up with possible solutions, it is important to consider the many factors that may contribute to violence in sports.

First, violence is a natural part of many sports. Contact sports are especially prone to violence. For example, football, America's most popular sport, requires blocking, hitting, and tackling. While these activities are violent and possibly criminal off the playing field, they are acceptable under the rules of the game.

Boxing is another sport prone to violence. Former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier once said about an opponent: "I don't want to knock him out. I want to hit him, step away, and watch him hurt. I want his heart." In 1962, the welterweight championship bout between Benny "Kid" Paret and Emile Griffith was so brutal that it started a movement to ban boxing altogether. On national television, Griffith pummeled Paret. Before the referee stopped the fight, Griffith landed more than 20 crushing blows to Paret's head. Paret slumped unconscious against the ropes and later died from his injuries. A string of ring deaths followed Paret's death, causing several states to consider abolishing boxing.

Violence in sports is not limited to football and boxing, but exists in other popular sports such as hockey, baseball, basketball, and soccer. In many of these games, some contact is necessary and acceptable within the rules. But it is often difficult to distinguish between violence and normal rough-and-tumble play. The line often blurs between foul and fair play.

A second factor that contributes to sports violence is the pressure to win. As career opportunities and pay expand, competition grows. Some players will do almost anything to win. In the quest for victory,

violence becomes glorified in the minds of some players. Dor Atyeo, a prominent sports author, wrote in his book *Blood and Guts*: "It is the overwhelming pressure to win at all costs that lies at the heart of the escalating level of violence within the games themselves. When the single-minded pursuit of victory is wedded to the games of physical contact, violence is the inevitable result . . . "

Intimidation, domination, and revenge often enter into a player's mind. Some athletes visualize their opponents as beasts. This allows them to act aggressively without attaching any feelings of responsibility or concern for another human being. Many athletes admit they develop hatred for their opponents. Vince Lombardi, former coaching great of the Green Bay Packers, said, "To play this game you must have fire in you, and nothing stokes fire like hate."

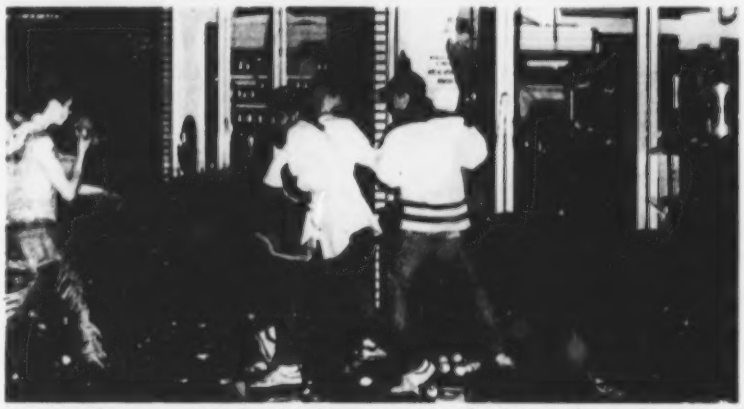
As athletes feel pressure to be stronger and faster, some turn to drugs. The abuse of both legal and illegal painkillers, stimulants, and anabolic steroids is a major concern in sports today. Some people believe that drug abuse increases the level of violence in today's games.

Coaches also contribute to the problem of violence in sports. Aggressive behavior is often learned on the practice field where players will do anything to please their coach. Many coaches favor players with a "killer instinct." Harvard psychiatrist Chester M. Pierce states, "The coach must have his men feeling that they not only can kill but that they should kill."

Some coaches admit that there is little regard for safety or respect for the opposing team, even in practice. In fact, aggressiveness is often the primary attribute that coaches look for in a player. Since coaches are under great pressure to win at any cost, encouraging violence becomes a means to that end. Coach Lombardi coined the popular phrase, "Winning is not everything, it's the only thing."

Coaches' obsession with winning may even cause them to direct violent activity at certain opposing players. As reported in *Sports Illustrated*, during the 1992 National Hockey League Playoffs between the New York Rangers and Pittsburgh Penguins, Rangers Coach Roger Neilson instructed his team to "be physical" with Penguins star Mario Lemieux. In game two of the series, Adam Graves of the Rangers dealt Lemieux a blow that broke his left hand and knocked him out of the playoffs. Speaking about Lemieux's broken hand, Coach Neilson stated: "It's great not having to worry about Lemieux. I think it certainly helped us [win]."

Referees, like coaches, can encourage sports violence. Referees often ignore overtly aggressive play. Tackles, blocks, body checks, and other legal blows are acceptable forms of contact. But officials sometimes tolerate aggression that the rules prohibit. The hockey fist fight, late hitting in football, high tackling in soccer, and the brush-back pitch in baseball have been ignored by referees and umpires. Especially in playoff and championship games, referees tend to employ a "let the players determine the outcome" philosophy, and are less strict in calling penalties.



Fans contribute to sports-related violence. In 1993 after Montreal won the National Hockey League championship, riots broke out in downtown Montreal. (UPI/Bettman.)

Spectators may also contribute to sports-related violence. Fans send messages of approval to players when they cheer "bone crushing" hits and raucous brawls. Sports psychologist Jeffrey Goldstein of Temple University has found that "people watching an aggressive sport are likely to become aggressive themselves . . . they sense or see aggression and then they act aggressively." It is not uncommon for riots to occur after soccer matches in Europe and South America, resulting in thousands of injuries and deaths. Sports-related riots have occurred in the United States as well. After the Chicago Bulls won the NBA championship in 1991, thousands of crazed fans took to the streets in violent celebration.

Sporting events can also contribute to domestic violence. Statistics show that violence against women increases on Super Bowl Sunday. On that day, a woman is beaten every 15 seconds, according to the Coalition of Battered Women's Advocates. The Los Angeles Police Department sets up a special domestic abuse hot line in response to the increase of assaults on women during the Super Bowl.

Finally, television plays an important role in the promotion of violence in sports. Television coverage

tends to highlight violent behavior on the field. With the advent of instant replay, these images are played over and over again in living rooms across the country. In order to be featured in the highlights of a game, players learn they must play aggressively. Networks claim that these highlights draw large audiences and that they are only broadcasting what the public demands.

Reducing violence in sports will be a difficult task to accomplish. In contact sports, it is virtually impossible to eliminate all violence from the game. In recent years, however, several attempts have been made to decrease violence. These have included better safety equipment, more league-imposed penalties, and occasional legal action.

Sports violence seldom results in criminal charges against athletes. On-ice assaults in hockey, for example, are rarely pursued in the courts. (UPI/Bettman.)

Better safety equipment has developed over the years. Today most athletes wear protective gear. But sports-related injuries are still commonplace. Each year thousands of professional and amateur players suffer torn ligaments, shattered bones, and even paralysis. Some observers believe that protective gear actually has made athletes more aggressive. This is because players develop a false sense of invincibility.

Most recommendations for reducing violence in sports have focused on greater self-regulation, such as increasing penalties, fines, and suspensions for excessive violence. Both the NBA and the NHL have instituted strict anti-fighting rules in an attempt to reduce violence.

Few people have looked to the courts to decrease sports violence. Legally, sports violence has usually been considered different or in a "world of its own" and therefore exempt from criminal charges. Violent assaults that would be illegal under the general law of the land are commonly accepted by sports authorities. Athletes often believe they are free to act violently on the playing field without serious consequences.

Thus, criminal charges for on-the-field conduct are rarely pursued, and when they are, they are usually unsuccessful. Most of the cases that have gone to criminal court involve NHL players. In 1988, Dino Ciccarelli of the Minnesota North Stars was the first NHL player to go to jail for an on-ice assault. Ciccarelli hit Luke Richardson of the Toronto Maple Leafs several times in the head with his stick. Richardson received no injuries, thanks to the protection of his helmet. Ciccarelli was sent to jail for a day.

Ciccarelli's behavior was not uniquely aggressive, but the judge in the case wanted to send a message to the NHL: Violence in hockey would no longer be acceptable to society. Even with the short sentence, some people were upset with the outside interference of the judicial system. Traditionally, police and the courts had not enforced the laws in hockey arenas. Moreover, Ciccarelli had previously been penalized internally by the NHL and served a 10-game suspension. Some thought his suspension was sufficient punishment. Others disagreed, believing that criminal intervention in sports was long overdue. In the face of so many injuries, they argued, sports should not be exempt from the laws that govern our everyday behavior.

Another violent on-the-court incident that landed in civil court involved the NBA. In 1977, Rudy Tomjanovich of the Houston Rockets received serious injuries from a punch by Kermit Washington of the Los Angeles Lakers. Tomjanovich tried to break up a fight between Washington and another Rocket player. Washington threw a punch at Tomjanovich, who received a fractured skull, nose, and jaw; a brain concussion; facial scratches; leakage of spinal fluid; and other serious complications. The legal defense argued that violence is inherent in the game: This type of injury was part of the risk of playing professional basketball. The court disagreed, found Washington's actions excessive, and awarded Tomjanovich $3.3 million for his injuries.

Courts are more willing to intervene and regulate high school or college sports because they feel a greater sense of responsibility for amateur athletes. High school coaches have been held responsible for directing injured athletes to play and for failing to instruct on safety techniques.

Violence in sports is a complicated issue because there are many contributing factors. Since some sports are inherently violent, it will be difficult to completely eliminate all violence. But other factors also enter into the equation. Athletes want to win at all costs. Coaches teach aggressive behavior. Referees look the other way when it occurs. Spectators cheer it. The media broadcasts it. What can be done to decrease the violence in sports? Most current efforts have focused on improving safety equipment, increasing league-imposed penalties, and taking legal action. In order to significantly decrease sports violence, it will take the combined effort of everyone involved to take responsibility for their part in the equation.

For Discussion

1. What factors do you think lead to violence in sports? Which do you think is the most important?
2. Should more violence be allowed in professional than amateur sports? Why or why not?
3. What, if anything, do you think should be done about violence in sports?

Activity

Divide the class into small groups of four to five members. Each group will take one of three roles and rule on the six situations below. After each group decides, regroup the class and discuss the decisions.

ROLE 1: You are referees or umpires at each sporting event. Decide in each situation whether the athlete should be penalized immediately. You have the power to expel the athlete from the game or penalize the team. For example, in a football game you could give a yardage penalty or in a basketball game you could call a foul.

ROLE 2: You are the governing body of each league, such as the National Football League or the National Hockey League. Decide in each situation whether the athlete should be penalized after the fact for violating the rules of the game. You have the power to fine the player or the team, suspend the player from future games, or expel the player from the league.

ROLE 3: You are criminal prosecutors. Decide in each situation whether the athlete should be charged with the crime of assault and battery. The definition of assault and battery is any unlawful touching of another which is without justification or excuse. A person need not physically touch another but may cause an object to touch a second person.

Situations:

1. Alex is a professional tennis player who has been known to throw her racket when angry. The umpire has warned Alex to stop this behavior. During the match, Alex cannot return a smashing serve. In disgust, Alex throws her racket. It bounces and injures a line judge. Alex claims that she was upset, but says she did not intend to hit anyone with her racket.
2. Terry plays receiver for a professional football team. The ball is thrown to Terry who catches it and is tackled hard by Dale. Terry gets up and hits Dale in the back of the head causing Dale to fall to the ground. In falling, Dale twists his knee and cannot play for the rest of the season. Terry admits acting out of frustration and anger, but says he did not intend to injure Dale.
3. Sandy is a pitcher for an amateur baseball team. In the second inning Sandy pitches to Casey who hits a home run. In the fifth inning Sandy pitches a fast ball to Casey that hits him in the elbow. Casey rushes the mound and starts a fight with Sandy. Casey suffers a bruised elbow and misses the next couple of games. Sandy has a few bruises. Sandy says he did not intend to hit Casey; he says it was merely a wild pitch.
4. Pat plays second base in an amateur softball league. Tracy is on first base and runs to second base when a teammate hits a grounder toward Pat. Pat picks up the ball, tags second base, and throws to first base to make a double-play. Tracy continues to run at Pat who is now standing five feet in front of second base. Tracy collides with Pat and hits Pat in the chin, breaking Pat's jaw. Tracy says that she ran at Pat to try to obstruct her view of first base.
5. Leslie plays forward for a professional soccer team. Several times during the game, Leslie has rushed the goalie. Once she was yellow carded for unsportsmanlike conduct. Once again, Leslie gets the ball near the goal. The goalie dives and grabs the ball. While the goalie lies on the ground covering the ball, Leslie keeps driving in. She kicks the goalie several times. The goalie suffers three broken ribs and can not play the rest of the season.
6. Jaime and Corey are professional ice hockey players. During a skirmish to get control of the puck, Jaime pushes Corey into the boards. Corey responds by tripping Jaime with his stick. When Jaime gets up, he skates toward Corey. A fight ensues. Corey needs 10 stitches above his eye and Jaime has a sore back. Neither player has to miss any games, due to his injuries.

COACH'S COLUMN

By "Coach" Andy Schwich
Sports & the Law Program Director

Orel Hershiser

Orel Hershiser, pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, is one of the few major-league baseball players who has served on the same team for more than 10 years. Service is a word that is synonymous with Orel Hershiser, on and off the playing field.

In 1993, Orel was nominated by the Dodgers for major-league baseball's Roberto Clemente Award, which is presented annually to the player who best represents the game both on and off the field. The award is named for Clemente, a Hall of Fame outfielder with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who was killed in a plane crash while delivering supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua in 1972. As a player, Roberto Clemente shared the spotlight with such all-time greats as Willie Mays and Henry Aaron. As a humanitarian, this native of Puerto Rico was in a league of his own in his efforts to advance Latinos in major-league baseball and to provide opportunities for youngsters.

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Both Clemente and Hershiser will be remembered for magnificent performances in the World Series. In the minds of many baseball fans, Clemente's performance in the 1971 Fall Classic was the greatest all-around exhibition in modern World Series history. He not only hit .414 with two home runs, but his base running and outfield play propelled the Pirates to victory over the Baltimore Orioles in seven games. In the 1988 World Series, Hershiser was voted Most Valuable Player after he recorded two wins in the Dodgers' victory over the heavily favored Oakland A's. In game five, he clinched the crown for the Dodgers with his second complete game of the series.

I had the opportunity to watch both Roberto Clemente and Orel Hershiser play baseball. I saw Clemente during the summer of 1970. In a four-game series, he almost single-handedly beat the Dodgers with a tremendous display of the five skills that scouts look for in a ball player—throwing, fielding, base running, hitting for average, and hitting for power.

I have watched Orel Hershiser pitch on several occasions, however, the first time left the most lasting impression. It was in 1988 on a cold September night, typical of Candlestick Park in San Francisco. The Dodgers and Giants were locked in a tight division race and ace Orel Hershiser was scheduled to pitch. Hershiser was working on a remarkable record-setting string of consecutive scoreless innings and shutouts.

Dressed in ski clothes, I found my field-level seat down the third-base line. Ten feet in front of me, just beyond the railing, stood Hershiser, slowly warming up with some soft tosses. While watching Orel complete his pre-game bullpen routine, it became obvious to me why Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda had nicknamed him "Bulldog." I marveled at his concentration and determination. I was astounded by his ability to hit the catcher's target with every pitch. Most important, I was ecstatic that I didn't have to face Hershiser on that chilly night. I actually felt sorry for the Giants' hitters who did.

Orel succeeded in shutting out the Giants that night and proceeded to pitch 59 consecutive scoreless innings, a major-league record. His 23 victories in the regular season led the Dodgers to the 1988 division title. Orel's mastery continued into the post-season as the Dodgers captured the National League pennant and World Series championship. He received the National League's Cy Young Award, which is given annually to the outstanding pitcher in each league.

It has often been said that a person's true character shows in times of adversity. Orel Hershiser was put to the test in 1989 after major reconstructive surgery on his right shoulder. While he worked hard to overcome this career-threatening injury to his pitching arm, he became more involved with several charitable community organizations and events. Orel's

(Continued on page 10.)

Reaching Out For the Long Run

Los Angeles professional teams make a different kind of "assist" when they reach beyond the playing field. The Kings and the Ducks, the Clippers and the Lakers, the Rams and the Raiders are all making a serious, long-term bid to assist some of their most enthusiastic fans . . . the young people of L.A.

> Matthew Valenzuela, age 12, heads for the Hollenbeck Youth Center most afternoons. Hollenbeck is close to Matthew's home, and walking distance from school. Matthew describes his neighborhood as "rough," ruled by gangs and taggers. At Hollenbeck, he can play basketball, volleyball, and football with his friends in what he describes as "a positive environment." "It's tough to avoid the gangs and taggers," says Matthew, "but the center gives me something to do instead."

Over the years, many young people have benefitted from the generosity and concern of prominent sports figures. 1960's Olympic track star Rafer Johnson, boxer Muhammed Ali, and basketball heroes Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan are just a few sports celebrities who have poured passion, time, and money back into the neighborhoods that cheered them to victory.

Many pro sports organizations take advantage of their place in the spotlight to sponsor fundraisers. For example, in the fall of 1993, the Mighty Ducks and the Kings joined showbiz personalities to play an exhibition hockey game. Proceeds went to benefit the victims of the recent brush fires in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Gary Bettman, NHL Commissioner, described L.A. hockey's response to the fires. "NHL players have a strong tradition of community service. Our athletes will always give more when it's needed. We are proud to support their efforts helping the victims of this terrible tragedy."

Tough Times in Los Angeles Trigger a Different Kind of Response

L.A. has suffered civil unrest, fires, floods, even earthquakes. Individual athletes and pro teams have often been there to help. But professional sports franchises are also looking long and hard at a different kind of crisis. Tough times have fallen on many of America's youth. Neglect, abuse, and violence most often strike first and hardest at the people who are America's biggest sports fans . . . young people.

This year, juvenile homicide has surpassed teen pregnancy as America's greatest youth problem. Sixty percent of all violent crimes are committed by young males under the age of 25. Violence is not new to America. Since the days of the frontier, Americans have often settled issues with a gun. But today, our youth seem more vulnerable than ever.

Magic Johnson takes some time out from his busy schedule with his traveling team to speak to some Sports & the Law students from Long Beach Jordan. (CRF photo.)

Since the 1980s, the ravages of drug addiction and violence caused by competition among drug dealers have taken a high toll on young people. Youthful unemployment and homelessness have brought kids at risk into painful focus for many Americans. The riots that swept through Los Angeles after the Rodney King beating trial demonstrated the frustration and anger felt by many young people. As the angry fires cooled, several pro teams joined with community-based police efforts, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and local businesses to extend a helping hand. The goal: to develop service programs that might really address the hopes, fears, dreams, and needs of children neglected for too long.

The Los Angeles Clippers

Steve Swayne, community relations director, Los Angeles Clippers, has said: "The Clippers realize that their success is dependant upon the support of the community and the fans. It is a priority and an obligation for the Clippers to give back to their supporters."

According to Swayne, drugs, guns, and violence are issues of great concern to the Clippers. Representatives from the Clippers meet regularly with local educators, business and community leaders, police, and social service experts. They discuss how the Clippers can deal with some of the problems that

kids are struggling with in Los Angeles. Here are a few of the projects that came out of these meetings:

- **Neighborhood Pride:** ARCO petroleum and the Los Angeles Clippers have teamed up to repair and maintain 30 basketball courts in the Los Angeles area. The goal is to provide L.A. youth with safe places to play.
- **Stay in School:** Working closely with Vons and Nabisco, the Clippers have established Stay in School programs in 75 schools in Compton and Los Angeles. Next year, the Clippers plan to bring Stay in School to 500 junior high schools from Pasadena to Long Beach.
- **Midnight Basketball League:** This is a unique program to keep youngsters off the streets at night. Aided by L.A. GEAR, the Clippers keep the doors open and the lights on at numerous L.A. basketball courts from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m. to offer a healthy alternative to the mean streets.

The Clippers are also hoping to provide a "Guns for Tickets" program in which people can exchange weapons for free tickets to Clippers games.

The Los Angeles Raiders believe they can help stop the violence by promoting positive alternatives for youth. Gil Hernandez, public relations executive for the Raiders, speaks to a group of students during a Sports & the Law conference. (Andrew Costly/CRF photo.)

The Los Angeles Lakers

The Los Angeles Lakers joined forces with Ralphs supermarkets, McDonald's, and radio station 92.3 ("THE BEAT") to urge L.A. youngsters to stay in school and complete their high school education. Students pick up Stay In School report cards at local businesses. They must stay in school for 30 consecutive days and display a good attitude to receive a "passing grade." A student who submits a report card will receive a certificate, a gift discount card, and a chance to attend a huge Lakers' Stay in School Jam, full of basketball stars, recording artists, and prizes.

The Los Angeles Rams

After the Los Angeles riots in May 1992, two L.A. Rams football players stepped forward to support peacemaking efforts between two Los Angeles street gangs, the Crips and the Bloods. Todd Lyght and Robert Bailey toured South Central neighborhoods with L.A. gang members and learned firsthand what it is like to live under the instant threat of violence. Lyght and Baily never forgot what they learned. Both players have returned many times to the neighborhood to support L.A. gangs in their efforts to stop the violence.

Other Rams players maintain a close tie with the First AME Church in South Central. They donate money annually to the Christmas Fund and sponsor the Feliz Navidad program where players and cheerleaders provide entertainment and give away free toys and food. The Rams fund raise and donate money to the Anaheim Police Department to help fund youth crime and drug prevention programs. The Rams also contribute to the Youth Education Town run by the National Football League in Compton.

The Los Angeles Raiders

Gil Hernandez, a spokesperson for the L.A. Raiders, believes that the economy puts many L.A. kids at risk. "A major problem today is the inability to make income, particularly at the lower socio-economic level of society." Hernandez feels that many doors are closed to poor youngsters, so they search for other ways to be successful. "They look to be accepted by someone, and gangs will usually accept them," he said.

The L.A. Raiders believe they can help stop the violence by promoting positive alternatives for youth. "The Raiders have a tough and mean image on the field, but off the field, the players are responsible law-abiding citizens who play by the rules. The Raiders' logo stands for poise and excellence, not lawbreaking."

Hernandez described some of the Raider efforts to grapple with critical L.A. youth concerns: education, drug use, gang violence, and vandalism.

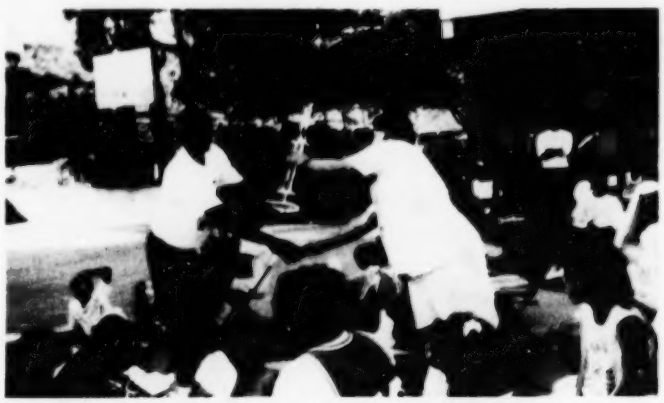
- **Raiders Educational Support Program:** Hernandez and the Raiders tour schools all over California, urging young fans to set scholastic goals and gain self-confidence.
- **Raiders Community Youth Support Programs:** Working with the L.A. Board of Education, the Raiders help sponsor several organizations that are striving to deter gang activity. For example, the Raiders work with the Gang Risk Intervention Pro-

ject as it reaches out to elementary school kids to convince them to stay out of gangs.

- The Raiders also support anti-drug, anti-vandalism, and AIDS awareness programs that promote good health habits, address some of the underlying causes of tagging and youthful drug addiction, and offer the prospects of shelter and healing to at-risk youth.

L.A. Teams Sponsor Long-Term Efforts to Support Young L.A. Fans

Mike Davis is a former player with the L. A. Raiders. Today, Davis keeps a busy schedule as executive director of Youth Education Town, a well-equipped education and recreation center located in South Central Los Angeles. Mike spoke to *Sports & the Law* about the center and why he works with young people. He remembered an incident from high school that influenced him: "Hall of Famer Willie Davis came out and spoke to our high school football team. Mr. Davis spoke strictly on the value of an education. I wanted to be like him and give to the community." [See "Interview With Mike Davis," pg.13]



Duane Cooper of the Los Angeles Lakers contributed to the success of the first annual "Junior High Jam" in 1992. (Andrew Costly/CRF Photo)

After a fulfilling career on the playing field, Davis coached at Cal State University Long Beach. "Every time I would come to the inner city, I would see these magnificent athletes. Unfortunately, we couldn't touch them. . . They didn't have a grade point average strong enough." Davis had athletic scholarships dedicated to the inner city, but he couldn't give them out to players who were so weak academically. When Davis took a look at the general student population, he saw that many students needed help.

When the National Football League approached Davis to run Youth Education Town, Davis set out to design a program that would motivate kids to deal with life in the 90s. Today, YET offers fully integrated academic, athletic, job training, and community service programs. It helps kids develop practical skills and motivates them to care about their families, their friends, and their community.

The NFL, 40 corporate sponsors, the United Way, and several showbiz personalities have contributed to the opening of a Youth Education library, a computer lab, a media center, a fitness room, and a spacious playing field. "At any given time, Monday through Thursday," Davis says, "we have six to eight tutors to assist the kids...We're prepared to teach any subjects from A to Z, just as long as the kids bring their textbooks. That's the price of admission. You must bring homework, and you must bring a textbook."

Most important, Mike Davis and his dedicated staff have long-term plans for the kids who come to Youth Education Town. "Instead of an F or a D, you see a B or an A. I feel really good about that. But I'm quick to tell the staff—Hey, we're only into the first five minutes of the ballgame. Our success will come when we have these kids accepted into college. Then we'll feel good about things."

Another long-term project to help young people is the Hollenbeck Youth Center, located in Boyle Heights near Dodgers Stadium. Since its beginning in 1976, the L.A. Dodgers have supported the center's efforts to provide opportunities and a safe haven for East Los Angeles youngsters.

Sports & the Law spoke with young Manuel Gallegos at the Youth Center. Boxing takes up a lot of Manuels' time. After a rigorous training session at the Hollenbeck Youth Center, Manual has time only to shower, eat dinner, do his homework, and go to bed. Manual hopes to fight in his first amateur fight soon. He likes his new-found sport because it gives him a chance to vent his frustrations and anger positively. He likes working out at Hollenbeck because it is free and close to his home.

Manuel's trainer, Ruben Palmerro, constantly encourages youngsters like Manuel to stay away from the bad influences of gangs and taggers, and to work hard in the ring and at school. Neighborhood gangs and taggers have put heavy pressure on Manuel to join their ranks. Boxing at the center gives him an alternative. "If more of the kids in the neighborhood got involved in the activities offered at the center, there would be less gangs and taggers."

The Hollenbeck Youth Center shows that building self-respect and self-reliance is the best way to help at-risk youth. The center offers indoor sports, such as basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, karate, and boxing. Baseball, soccer, track, and swimming are also

offered through the center. Hollenbeck is open to neighborhood children seven days a week. The training is excellent: The Hollenbeck boxing program has sent boxers to the '84 and '88 Olympics.

The Hollenbeck Youth Center doesn't try to "correct" frustrated youngsters. It simply offers them sports and community-supported programs. Team sports replace gangs by teaching kids how to depend on each other . . . and themselves. When kids start believing in themselves, they can begin to lead productive lives and take advantage of the opportunities that society has to offer.

Like the NFL's Youth Education Town, Hollenbeck is a strong example of a youth center that draws from every corner of the community—the police, business, concerned citizens, and professional athletic organizations—to provide a strong resource for inner-city youngsters. Most important, Hollenbeck has a history and a future. Like so many of L.A.'s professional sports organizations, The Los Angeles Dodgers and the Hollenbeck Youth Center are committed to reaching out for the long run, to some of L.A.'s greatest sports fans . . . the young people.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have long supported the Hollenbeck Youth Center's efforts to provide opportunities for youngsters. Mike Shaperson and Manny Mota of the Dodgers speak to students at the 1992 Inner City Games, an event sponsored by Hollenbeck. (Photo by Kiki Cordoza.)

For Discussion

1. Name some problems young people face in society today. What do you think is America's greatest youth problem today?
2. Gil Hernandez of the L.A. Raiders uses the words "at risk" to describe some Los Angeles youngsters. What do you think "at risk" means?
3. What causes some young people to be "at risk"?
4. How do individual athletes and sports organizations reach out to young people? What efforts do you think are the most effective at helping young people? Why?
5. Do athletes and professional sports organizations have a responsibility to the fans and the communities that support them? Why or why not?

GOALS Lessons ☞

World Cup USA 1994 and Constitutional Rights Foundation (sponsors of Sports & the Law) have joined together to create "The GOALS Program": Self-contained lessons for middle schools that emphasize participation in academics, athletics, and community service. Please feel free to use these lessons on pages 11 and 12 to stimulate and motivate your students to reach their GOALS. See back page for information on how to get a free copy of "The GOALS Program."

COACH'S COLUMN. . .

commitment to civic participation has continued, even after he made a miraculous return to the pitching mound in 1991, after an absence of almost two years.

Hershiser has worked with Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CF) for six years and since 1990 has chaired an annual golf tournament to benefit CF. He is the founder and president of the James Patrick Jarrin Scholarship Foundation in Los Angeles, which annually presents scholarships to five local Latino high school students. He is also actively involved in the I-Care Hotline.

Young people dream of the success that Orel Hershiser has enjoyed in his career. They must recognize that it takes a lot of hard work and determination to achieve success. Orel Hershiser recognizes that through hard work and determination young people can be given the opportunities to fulfill their dreams. Like Roberto Clemente before him, Orel Hershiser has achieved stardom both on and off the playing field.

For Discussion

1. What is the Roberto Clemente Award? Why is it named after Roberto Clemente?
2. Why did the Dodgers nominate Orel Hershiser for this award?
3. What do you think sports figures can do to help the community?

LISTENING—Resolving Conflict

With a quick move, you steal the ball from the opposing player and dribble downfield for the shot that will put your team ahead. Suddenly, you come crashing to the ground as the opponent tackles you from behind. You get up off the ground, and you realize you are face-to-face with the offender. What will you do?

Unsportsmanlike conduct in sports is often the result of a conflict. A conflict is a disagreement between two or more persons or groups. Since everyone experiences conflict everyday at home, in school, at work and at play, it is important to learn different ways of resolving conflict.

Every sport has penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct. If a player acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, referees can call penalties. In soccer, for example, a yellow card is a warning given to a player for unsportsmanlike conduct and a red card is used for removing or ejecting a player from the game.

Referees are not available to settle the disputes that arise in our daily lives. Therefore, many people learn to use a process known as compromise. A compromise is an agreement that is reached between two people or groups where each side gives in a little bit in order to reach an agreement. Often, just talking it over and listening to the other person is enough to bring about compromise and an end to the conflict.

One of the best ways to resolve a conflict is to problem-solve, much like you do in math or science. When you problem-solve, it means that you know you have a conflict and you want to work it out by talking with, and listening to, the other person. If you can learn to problem-solve, you can become a STAR:

S—Stop and ask yourself what just happened.

T—Think about what the person did or said to make you angry.

A—Act by peacefully speaking up for yourself.

R—React to the problem by offering a suggestion.

The next time a conflict arises, on or off the field, try to find different ways of resolving that conflict. In sports and in life, being able to resolve conflict is an important skill in becoming a good sport and, most importantly, a good citizen.

BE A STAR!

CIVIC PARTICIPATION—Responsibility

How many times have you seen an athlete endorse a product on TV? The high profile and visibility of athletes, especially American professional athletes, puts them into the spotlight. As a result, many fans see them as role models. Role models are those people others choose to follow. To many young people, athletes serve as a guide and as a source of inspiration.

Whether they choose it or not, athletes carry a responsibility to themselves, their teams, and their fans. On the field or court, determination and excellence can motivate others to strive for and achieve success in sports and life. Good role models excel not only on the playing field, but off the field as well. Many athletes work in community programs such as education, drug intervention, or crime prevention. They don't participate in these programs for money or publicity but out of a sense of commitment and responsibility to their communities.

Everyone is not a famous athlete, but that does not mean that we do not carry our own special responsibilities. As citizens of the United States, we have a responsibility to ourselves, our community, and to our government. Good citizenship means active participation and responsibility in school and in the community.

With growing problems in our communities, the need for civic involvement has increased. It is important to realize that everyone can become actively involved in community service. Helping someone in the community not only brings a strong sense of satisfaction and success, but it can also provide you with skills and experience that will be useful for a lifetime.

For Discussion

1. What athletes have become popular as a result of endorsements? Why do you think these particular athletes were chosen for endorsements?
2. What professionals, other than athletes, would you consider to be role models for young people? Do you think that these professionals are more important in society than athletes?
3. What are some of the problems that your school faces? What are some of the problems that your community faces? How can we, as good citizens, become involved in solutions to these problems?
4. What kinds of organizations have been established in your school or community to encourage civic participation?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE DAVIS

"I'm a kid from South Central Los Angeles who had some breaks and had some guidance along the way and had support of my family. If I can achieve what I have achieved and seize opportunities after opportunities, then I'm in a position to show others how to do that very thing."

The Raiders have always been known for the quality of their players in the defensive backfield. Mike Davis contributed to this reputation as a Raiders' starting strong safety and a key member of 1981 and 1984 Super Bowl championship teams. After a playing career of 12 years and several years of college coaching, Mike now serves as the executive director of the National Football League's Youth Education Town (YET) in Compton. He recently shared his thoughts on academics, athletics, and civic participation with *Sports & the Law*.

S&L: As you were growing up, what inspired you to succeed?

MD: I always found the key is to have role models and to see positive actions by the people who are in the spotlight. I know that I benefited from that when I was growing up. Hall of Famer Willie Davis spoke to our high school football team. I was expecting to hear a Vince Lombardi type of delivery on sports, but Mr. Davis spoke strictly on the value of an education. That, in itself, spurred me to go on, because I wanted to be like him and give to the community.

S&L: As executive directive of NFL Youth Education Town, why do you believe the YET program is so important?

MD: Taking this assignment was something I could not turn down morally. I coached at Cal State University Long Beach and at Eastern Michigan University. Each coaching staff asked me to recruit in the inner city. Every time I would come to the inner city, I would see these magnificent athletes. Unfortunately, we couldn't touch them simply because they didn't have the required classes or a grade-point average strong enough.

(Los Angeles Raiders)

We wanted to come up with a program that could help these kids get motivated and adjust to what it's going to take to compete in the 90s. That is, a supplementary education to get them to understand that they're competing in the classroom. If they can compete in the classroom, they can compete nationally and worldwide.

S&L: What are some of the specific programs that you offer the students at YET?

MD: We feel that a strong mind and a strong body are essentials for a strong life. Everything we do is strategically designed to motivate the kids, to spur their interest to going on to the next level of education or identifying a vocational pursuit. We offer a complete after-school program where they can acquire vast knowledge and skills. We offer a homework assistance program, a tutorial assistance program, computer literacy, and computer orientation. We're prepared to teach any subject from A to Z just as long as the kids bring their textbooks. That's the price of admission. You must bring homework and you must bring a textbook.

We also have a health education and physical education component. We teach the kids about careers that can be derived from physical education and health education. The entire program is mandatory. You can't come here and just do the weights. Our sports program has taken off. We had a taste of competition this last summer with Sports & the Law's Junior High Jam. We have a lot of kids who ask us about that program, who want to come back. We

plan on fielding a basketball team, both men and women, and expanding our sports program into soccer and baseball.

S&L: What does teamwork mean to you and what importance does it serve at YET?

MD: Teamwork is a commitment within yourself to help achieve goals. Without teamwork you don't know what the other person is doing. You don't develop a sense of security and confidence within yourself or your neighbor. If you operate as a unit, you can achieve more goals. Plus, you learn more.

I've been asked, why do I keep my cool all of the time? I tell the kids, "Be conscientious and be respectful. Be a critical thinker so that you can make informed decisions." And with that we see that the teamwork pays off.

We often ask the kids for input on how to improve the program. They realize that, "Hey, we have decision-making power. We are critical thinkers and we are making informed decisions."

S&L: YET has existed less than a year; what progress have you observed thus far?

MD: We just received fall-semester report cards, and we compared them to the summer report cards. Instead of an F or a D, you see a B or an A. That's where we feel we're helping. But I'm quick to tell the staff, "Hey, we're seven months into this program and we're only into the first five minutes of the ball game." We are making a difference, but we still have a lot of ground to cover. Our success will come when these kids are accepted into college. Then we'll feel good about things.

S&L: What is the key to the success at YET?

MD: The kids can come here for a safe haven and be at ease—be comfortable with their surroundings. When that happens you see the confidence and the creative juices start to flow for that child. The number one rule around here is to operate on respect. It's a community facility: "You break the rules and we'll enforce the rules." With that philosophy we have had nothing but success.

For Discussion

1. What inspired Mike Davis to get involved in helping his community?
2. Do you know of anyone in your community who is involved in helping it? Why do you think people work to help their communities?
3. How does Youth Education Town (YET) in Compton make a contribution to the community?
4. What kind of youth programs do you think would help your community?

Mike Davis was a key member of the Raiders' 1981 and 1984 Super Bowl championship teams. Davis now channels his energy into serving as the executive director of NFL's Youth Education Town. (Los Angeles Raiders)

PUZZLE

Unscramble the words above each clue.

DANAMROYT

1. At Youth Education Town, a young person cannot participate in just one component, the entire program is _____. (Interview)

RETDVASYI

2. "A person's true character shows at times of _____." (Coach's Column)

LEVONIEC

3. _____ is present in many sports, not just football and boxing. (Violence in Sports)

CAGRANIAU

4. Roberto Clemente was killed assisting with earthquake relief in _____. (Coach's Column)

ECIRM

5. Should violence in sports be considered a _____; or should sports be exempt from the laws that govern us? (Violence in Sports)

SARM

6. Sports team that contributes to the Anaheim Police Department's drug prevention program. (Reach Out)

JOMTNIVCOHA

7. Last name of athlete who sued Kermit Washington because of a punch he threw during a game. (Violence in Sports)

LAMEETRNEY

8. The Gang Risk Intervention Project targets this group of students. (Reach Out)

WEMTAROK

9. Mike Davis believes that _____ is important because it develops self-confidence and allows individuals to achieve more goals. (Interview)

TYE

10. Initials for education and recreation program in Compton. (Interview)

SNEPWAO

11. The Clippers want to establish a program where people can exchange _____ for Clippers tickets. (Reach Out)

GISKN

12. Los Angeles team who played an exhibition game to benefit Orange and Los Angeles county brush-fire victims. (Reach Out)

TARCICLI

13. Mike Davis said that in order to make informed decisions, individuals need to be_____ thinkers. (Interview)

TSYIX

14. What percentage of violent crimes are committed by males under the age of 25? (Reach Out)

KESLAR

15. This Los Angeles team offers a Stay In School report card program. (Reach Out)

SPEPRLCI

16. The professional sports team that assists with such programs as Stay In School, Neighborhood Pride, and Midnight Basketball League. (Reach Out)

GACIHOC

17. Violence erupted in this city after the 1991 NBA championship game. (Violence in Sports)

BTESPINIROSLI

18. _____ for violence in sports lies with everyone involved. (Violence in Sports)

NFAS

19. Violence in sports is not limited to the players, but also includes the _____ who watch the event. (Violence in Sports)

SCEPERT

20. The number one rule at YET is to treat others with _____. (Interview)

DREDGORS

21. What team supports the Hollenbeck Youth Center? (Reach Out)

NIEFTEF

22. Unfortunately, statistics show that on Super Bowl Sunday a woman is beaten every _____ seconds. (Violence in Sports)

DAMLOIBR

23. Last name of person who said: "To play this game you must have fire in you, and nothing stokes fire like hate." (Violence in Sports)

SVIDA

24. Last name of the Raiders' strong safety in Super Bowl championship teams in 1981 and 1984. (Interview)

KETXOBOKT

25. The price of admission to NFL Youth Education Town is a _____. (Interview)

HECSAOC

26. Players often learn aggressive tactics from their _____. (Violence in Sports)

TADCIENUO

27. The topic about which Hall of Famer Willie Davis spoke to Mike Davis' high school football team. (Interview)

SRISHESER

28. Last name of a major-league baseball pitcher who has played on the same team for more that 10 years. (Coach's Column)

TELECEMNT

29. Roberto _____ was a native of Puerto Rico who worked to increase the number of Latinos in baseball. (Coach's Column)

NEFTINIFY

30. The major-league record for consecutive scoreless innings.(Coach's Column)

GLUBODL

31. Tommy Lasorda's nickname for Orel Hershiser. (Coach's Column)

OYETA

32. Last name of the author who said, "It is the overwhelming pressure to win at all costs that lies at the heart of the escalating level of violence..." (Violence in Sports)

SRADIRE

33. Professional sports team whose logo stands for poise and excellence. (Reach Out)

OTERBOR

34. First name of the major-league baseball player who has an award dedicated in his name for outstanding service both on and off the playing field. (Coach's Column)

LICARCLECI

35. Dino _____ was the first NHL player to go to jail for an on-ice assault. (Violence in Sports)

Answers to puzzle on back page.

GOALS Lessons

FREE

Gaining Opportunities to Achieve Lifetime Success.

For Middle Schools

Five self-contained lessons designed to support the development of wellrounded individuals by focusing on participation and involvement in academics, athletics, and community service (see page 10). Lesson plans contains objectives, materials needed, teacher's instructions, and supplemental activities.

Please send written request for your copy to, **GOALS Lessons**—Sports & the Law, Constitutional Rights Foundation, 601 South Kingley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

Created by World Cup USA 1994 and Constitutional Rights Foundation (sponsors of Sports & the Law).

Sports & the Law Dinner and Auction

The Sports & the Law Dinner and Auction was held on November 11, 1993. The annual fundraiser honors individuals in sports and business who exemplify sportsmanship and citizenship. **Southern California Gas Company** was presented with the Community Service Award. **Rafer Johnson** received the Commitment to Youth in Sports Award, while **Mary Lou Retton** and **Don Newcombe** received the Sports & the Law Awards. Sports & the Law would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE

1. MANDATORY 2. ADVERSITY 3. VIOLENCE 4. NICARAGUA 5. CRIME 6. RAMS 7. TOM JANOVICH 8. ELEMENTARY 9. TEAMWORK 10. YET 11. WEAPONS 12. KINGS 13. CRITICAL 14. SIXTY 15. LAKERS 16. CLIPPERS 17. CHICAGO 8. RESPONSIBILITY 19. FANS 20. RESPECT 21. DODGERS 22. FIFTEEN 23. LOMBARDI 24. DAVIS 25. TEXTBOOK 26. COACHES 27. EDUCATION 28. HERSHISER 29. CLEMENTE 30. FIFTYNINE 31. BULLDOG 32. ATEYO 33. RAIDERS 34. ROBERTO 35. CICCARELLI

THE SPORTS & THE LAW PROGRAM

This newsletter is provided to schools as part of Constitutional Rights Foundation's Sports & the Law Program. Sports & the Law draws on young people's natural interest in sports to stimulate their involvement in education. The program provides teacher training, lesson plans, a textbook and accompanying videotape, an annual conference, and classroom visits by sports and legal professionals.

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If you receive multiple copies of this newsletter, please distribute throughout your department.

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